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Executive Registry

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6 NOV 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : National Security Council Study
Terms of Reference

1. Attached is a copy of the Terms of Reference of the new National Security Council study recently approved by Dr. Kissinger. This study will be sponsored by Mr. Robert Smith, a recent replacement for Mr. Gordon Moe on the NSC Staff.

2. The study will be conducted by a panel of civilian and nongovernment experts under the chairmanship of [redacted] The panel will have its initial meeting on 2 December 1975.

3. Mr. Smith has requested support from the Intelligence Community in supplying threat related briefings to this panel. Our first meeting with Mr. Smith on the agenda for these briefings is scheduled for today, 6 November.

[redacted]
Samuel V. Wilson
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy to the DCI for the
Intelligence Community

Attachment
Terms of Reference

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

TECHNICAL EVOLUTION AND VULNERABILITY OF U.S. SPACE SYSTEMS

A Panel is being established to: (a) review the planned and potential technological evolution of future military related space based capabilities; (b) assess the utilization of advanced technology in this evolution; and (c) consider the proper balance of military use of space assets, with particular emphasis on an assessment of the vulnerability of these systems. Consideration will be given to the contributions of space based elements to capabilities of both general purpose and strategic military forces, before and during hostilities. The Panel should also include consideration of planning or actions needed to ensure a smooth transition to use of the space shuttle for these purposes, and of new opportunities which might be made available by the shuttle.

With regard to the question of vulnerability, the Panel should review the technical capabilities of the USSR to interfere with operations of U.S. space systems, considering threats ranging from covert peacetime interference through deliberate overt destruction of space or ground elements during crises or conflict, and consider the potential impact of these capabilities on U.S. military/intelligence capabilities. The Panel should review the possibilities for significant change to U.S. technical posture as it relates to this matter, and should recommend technical programs which appear necessary to rectify or avert major vulnerabilities in current and planned U.S. satellite based capabilities. The Panel should complete its activities in about nine months.

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